

These are working families that play hard, that work hard and play by the rules, and we have to find a way to ensure their children.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HYPOCRISY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Columbia University defended the Iranian President's speech by invoking the right to free speech and speaking about open exchange of ideas.

None of what he said on Monday could be construed as such. He dodged questions about his Holocaust denial. He ignored questions about his country's role in the death of American soldiers in Iraq.

This same university does not allow our military's ROTC program on campus because they believe the military's "don't ask, don't tell policy" is discriminatory toward homosexuals.

But if Columbia is that concerned about defending homosexuals, why did they let this dictator on campus? His regime doesn't discriminate against gays; it executes them. More than 400 homosexuals so far executed like this.

Columbia University provided Mr. Ahmadinejad a sense of legitimacy and a forum that he will no doubt use to his advantage at home and abroad.

It is unfortunate they don't provide the same to the fine young men and women of our armed services.

HOUSE RULES ON TAX RATE INCREASES

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to serve as chairman of the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee. That subcommittee reviews tax legislation that has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee. We take this responsibility most seriously. Raising or lowering the tax burden on families and businesses has a real impact, both on those individuals and on the economy.

I was concerned when I heard debate last week suggesting that the House had changed our procedural rules for considering tax increases. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) mistakenly stated that the House rules no longer require a supermajority for tax rate increases.

The House rules on this subject are exactly the same as they were under the last Congress. The rule was written by the Republican majority back in 1997 and has remained unchanged.

I simply wanted to ensure that the record was entirely clear on this subject.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST CHRISTIAN M. NEFF

(Mr. JORDAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave young soldier and one of America's fallen heroes, Army Specialist Christian M. Neff.

Chris attended middle and high school in the Shawnee District before graduating from the Apollo Career Center in Lima, Ohio. He's remembered by many as a quiet man, but one with the ability to make people smile; someone who earned people's respect and led by example.

Christian Neff died on Wednesday, September 19 in Iraq while serving America in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Age 19, he is survived by a loving family and friends in Allen County and beyond.

In reading of Christian's life and speaking with his mother, I was touched by the dramatic impact he had on the lives of so many.

A young man of deep faith, Chris stood up and volunteered to serve his country. He fought to promote freedom. He gave his life in defense of his family, his community, his State and his Nation. For this, each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Christian will be deeply missed. But the strength of his character and the courage he demonstrated through his service will live on.

WELCOMING THE STUDENTS FROM CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL IN TOLEDO, OHIO

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague, Mr. JORDAN, in extending deepest sympathy to the family of Specialist Neff, and thank him for his valorous service to our Nation.

At the same time, today I would like to welcome to our Chamber and ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming the students from Christ the King School in Toledo, Ohio, 57 strong, who are here today, the future leaders of our country. We have sitting there future teachers, future astronauts, future Members of this House, future doctors, future military leaders, future librarians, future priests, future leaders in every sector. I'm just so pleased that they were able to visit our Nation's Capitol today. To see their enthusiasm and to know that America will be placed in their hands in a very short while gives me great hope for this 21st century. I know they will lead America to years of greater progress, greater opportunity and greater waves of peace for the people of our Nation and the people of the world. I'm so happy that they could visit today.

DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY SAYS "NOT GUILTY"

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, with O.J. Simpson back in the news, House leadership has decided to take one of his famous lines and use it to escape responsibility for a multitude of massive, budget-busting spending bills that they are trying to pass.

Raising taxes nationwide by \$400 billion, including an on-average \$3,000 per tax increase per American citizen? The Democrat majority says, "not guilty."

Withholding the passage of veterans health care bills for political purposes? The majority again says, "not guilty."

Granting illegal immigrants health care benefits and taking Medicare Advantage benefits away from our seniors and putting them in waiting lines for wheelchairs? The House leadership pleads "not guilty."

Well, sorry majority party. The American people are tired of your wasteful spending, and they will not acquit. This Congress needs to instill fiscal discipline and balance the budget so our families can build a better, brighter future.

DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. KUHLMAN of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUHLMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Friday of this past week, New York's Governor, Eliot Spitzer, announced his immigration policy, which allows immigrants, including those entering the country illegally, to obtain driver's licenses. This decision solidifies the need for more aggressive immigration legislation in these United States.

Why are we rewarding the people who are coming here illegally at the expense of others who are law-abiding citizens?

Inviting potential terrorists into the State and allowing them to drive whenever they wish undermines the preventive measures that protect our country from national security threats.

Let's not forget that September 11, 2001, hijackers had at least 35 licenses which helped them to rent cars and open bank accounts.

In addition, it will wreak havoc on our social services programs and create a massive flooding of illegal immigrants to New York State, straining our resources in our schools and our hospitals.

We need real immigration legislation that strengthens our borders and does not diminish our national security by granting more privileges to those who have entered this country illegally.